

Alternative 3 (non-motorized emphasis)

Alternative 3 emphasizes non-motorized uses and removes existing roads identified by several members of the public. It also removes or excludes any corridors. It also addresses issues 1, 5, and 7. It is similar to alternative 1 in that it adds existing routes to the designated system for the purposes of accessing dispersed camping, adds corridors to some designated routes for the purposes of accessing dispersed camping and big game retrieval, and adds seasonal restrictions to protect soil and water and wildlife resources. Alternative 3 would:

Add approximately 4 miles of existing closed roads in the vicinity of Largo Canyon to provide for route linkages around private lands.

Close approximately 3 miles of Goose Lake Road (FR 486) to all motorized uses.

Close approximately 3 miles of Pioneer Creek Road (FR 484) to most motorized use. Motorized use would continue to be used to access private land.

Close approximately 2 miles of Largo Canyon Road (FR 132).

Close approximately 4 miles of Bitter Creek Road (FR 77). Motorized use would continue to be used to access private land and for Forest Service recreation residence permit holders.

Close approximately 5 miles of open road in the vicinity of the Lobo pasture complex south of San Cristobal, including Forest Road 7a and 7b.

Close 14 miles of road district wide. The roads are in the vicinity of Midnight Meadows, Mallette Canyon, Bitter Creek, Cerro Negro, Pioneer Creek, Deer Mesa, Pinabete, and Middle Fork, due to the lack of access through private lands and/or resource concerns.

Close approximately 0.5 mile of Forest Road 54B prior to the private land boundary to discourage trespass and provide a suitable parking location.

Close approximately 2 miles of Fourth of July Canyon Road to all classes of motorized vehicle use.

Close approximately 2 miles of the Exploration Trail (FR 491 and connection to FR 54C) and manage as nonmotorized.

Close approximately 2 miles of Bonito Canyon (junction of FR 134 and FR 597) and manage as nonmotorized.

Continue to manage Middle Fork Road as nonmotorized.

Removes 36 miles of existing 100-foot corridor and prohibits motorized big game retrieval. Motorized vehicles would be restricted to parking adjacent to designated roads.

Manage motorized use on 184 (adds 3 miles) miles of designated road as limited to parking adjacent to designated roads.

Prohibit motorized dispersed camping at the intersection of Forest Roads 597 and 491 in the old Mallette Canyon area.

Prohibit motor vehicle use from January 1 to April 30 on approximately 71 miles of designated roads in the vicinity of Cebolla Mesa, Pioneer Creek, Foster Park and Forest Road 488 for soil and water and wildlife habitat protection. Forest Road 9 in the Cebolla Mesa areas would be open year-round.

Prohibit motor vehicle use from January 1 to April 30 on designated roads in the vicinity of Midnight Meadows for wildlife winter habitat security and from May 1 to June 30 for elk calving habitat protection.

Table 3. Alternative 3			
Miles of road designated for motor vehicle use (Close 33.5 miles of road district wide. The roads are in the vicinity of Midnight Meadows, Mallette Canyon, Bitter Creek, Cerro Negro, Pioneer Creek, Deer Mesa, Pinabete, and Middle Fork, .5 mile FR 54B, Exploration Trail, Goose Creek, Pioneer Canyon, Lobo pastures; add 8 miles near Largo Canyon to bypass private lands).	217	Add 4 Close 37	184
Existing Proposed Resulting Questa Ranger District System Changes System Miles of road with 300-foot corridor designated for motor vehicle use for the purpose of dispersed camping and big game retrieval.*	0	0	0
Miles of road with 150-foot corridor designated for motor vehicle use for the purpose of dispersed camping and big game retrieval.	0	0	0
Miles of road with managed access to designated dispersed campsites (short spur roads to designated campsites).	0	0	0
Miles of road with 100-foot corridor designated for motor vehicle use for the purpose of dispersed camping and big game retrieval (scattered district wide).	36	Remove 36	0
Miles of road with no corridor designated for motor vehicle use for the purpose of dispersed camping and big game retrieval (parking limited to adjacent to the road, district wide).	181	Add 3	184
Miles of trail designated for motor vehicles 50 inches or less in width.	0	0	0
Miles of trail designated for motorcycle use only.	19	0	19
Areas (acres) open to motorized cross-country travel.	0	0	0

* Since 1997, a forest supervisor's special order has restricted motorized vehicles to designated open roads with a 100-foot corridor on either side of the roadbed on 36 miles of road in the vicinity of Midnight Meadows, Pioneer Canyon, Placer Creek, Goose Creek and Taos Ski Valley.